Correctness of Telephone Bill

1575. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system to check the correctness of the Telephone Bills dispatched through website or published in Newspapers;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce the system of checking, the correctness of the telephone bills as is being followed in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, by when it would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATISUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Telephone bills are issued based on meter readings for subscribers. For bills, which show an abnormal increase in the calling pattern, checks have been prescribed in BSNL and MTNL.The telephone bills on website are a replica of the actual bills and do not thus require further checks for accuracy. Telephone bills are not published in newspaper.

(b) and (c) The Govt, no longer handles the operations of telecom (including billing). BSNL, however, has billing software standardized for most of its Circles whereby checks for accuracy exists.

Affordable Telephone connectivity

1576. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to provide affordable telecom connectivity to the people living in rural areas far away from the cities and towns;

(b) whether the recent Government's decision to permit basic telephone operators to enhance monthly rental, reduce number of free calls and pulse rate would adversely affect extension of telecom connectivity to rural areas;